

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒ X  
no ☐

Property Name: Tool House, Spring Grove Inventory Number: BA-2327  
Address: Spring Grove Hospital City: Catonsville Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: Baltimore County USGS Topographic Map: Baltimore West  
Owner: DHMH Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes  
Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
Site visit by MHT staff: ☐ no ☒ X yes Name: L. Bowlin, 1985 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property is located within a historic district? ☒ X yes ☐ no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: BA-2319  
NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☒ X yes Name of District: Spring Grove Hospital Center  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☒ X yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐ yes

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)* Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☒ X A ☐ B ☒ X C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

#BA 157 (Bowlin, 1986); Project Review & Compliance Files; Spring Grove Architectural Survey Notebook

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Spring Grove Hospital Center, Catonsville, Baltimore County was initially determined eligible for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties in 1986. Trust policy is that any property eligible for the MRHP is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Spring Grove is eligible under Criterion A, events, as the first state-sponsored facility for the mentally ill. The hospital had its origins in 1797 where the indigent sick and insane were cared for in Baltimore. By 1872 the hospital had outgrown its site and the state chose a new 200-acresite in Catonsville. The District is also eligible under Criterion C, as an architectural example. The hospital center does not have a specific layout, but rather its growth and development are demonstrated through the construction of buildings in response to new needs and developments in the care of the mentally ill. The 1985 survey included 25 buildings built between 1872 and 1944. All are eligible contributing resources to the historic district.

[\*from Spring Grove Hospital Center DOE]

As a result of the recently completed survey, 25 buildings have been determined to be historically and architecturally significant to the development of public mental health care in Maryland at Spring Grove Hospital Center. This property, BA-2327, Tool House, was included on the list of significant properties.  
(See Bowlin, 1985)

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☒ X Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ X A ☐ B ☒ X C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

BA-2327

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Tool House, Spring Grove

Page 2

Prepared by: L. Bowlin, 1985 (MHT)

Date Prepared: \_\_\_\_\_

BA-2327

1908

Tool House

Public

Spring Grove Hospital Center

Catonsville

The Tool House is a two story frame building resting on a brick foundation and measuring three bays long and two bays deep. The gable roof is covered by tin sheathing.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Tool House

and/or common

### 2. Location

Spring Grove Hospital Center

street & number

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Catonsville

\_\_\_ vicinity of

congressional district 3

state Maryland

county

Baltimore

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	___ occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	___ private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Hospital

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

street & number 201 West Preston Street

telephone no.: 301-225-6816

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code Maryland 21201

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber

street & number folio

city, town Towson

state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

ate

\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. BA-2327

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Tool House is a two story frame building, located southeast of the Laundry Building. The shiplap building rests on a brick foundation. Measuring three bays long and two bays deep, the Tool House is covered by a tin, gable roof.

The fenestration throughout the building is characterized by frame surrounds, sills and lintels. The first floor windows display wooden shutters but the window panes have been sealed with plywood. In contrast, the second floor windows lack shutters but show 2/2 double-hung sashes.

The east and west faces exhibit simple gable ends with boxed returns and plain projecting verges. The west facade has a single, paneled door with a frame surround and a brick sill. The east face displays two centrally located openings. The first floor opening is a window with the standard treatment. The second floor opening is a double door, constructed of clapboard. Above the door, a pulley attached to a board projects away from the wall.

The current function of the building is, predominantly, to store wooden planks. The walls have remained unfinished since the building's construction in 1908. The stability of the structure is potentially threatened by its slanting stature.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. BA-2327

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1908	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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check: Applicable Criteria: ☒A ☐B ☒C ☐D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐A ☐B ☐C ☐D ☐E ☐F ☐G

Level of Significance: ☐national ☒state ☐local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The frame Tool House was constructed by Spring Grove in 1908. The building replaced a demolished tool house located on the main drive. The Tool House represents another subordinate building on the Spring Grove complex which functioned as part of the maintenance operation of the hospital. Though not crucial to the care and treatment of the insane, the building contributes as well to the built environment of Spring Grove. The Tool House is unique to the complex because it is the oldest frame building standing on the campus. Most of the buildings for the hospital were constructed in brick or stone. These materials were preferred due to a reduced fire risk.

The original colors of the Tool House were quite bright. The green shutters contrasted with the deep red of the frame siding. The building has experienced few if any alterations. Structural problems plague the brick foundation, resulting in a noticeable slant of the building. The plain interior remains unfinished and continues to function as a tool house and lumber storage.

Survey No. BA-2327

## PS-2746



BA-2327

TOOL HOUSE

SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER

CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND

SOUTH WALL

DON JEWELL, 4/86

NEGATIVES AT MHT



BA-2327

TOOL HOUSE

SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER

CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND

EAST AND NORTH WALL

DON JEWELL, 4/86

NEGATIVES AT MHT